

News Release



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Trail Evaluations Planned for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

DESCANSO – In an effort to accommodate different forms of recreation on park trails, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has organized a Trail Evaluation team to evaluate and recommend trails that may be appropriate for multi-use. The team is made up of park staff and representatives from different trail user groups – hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. The stated purpose of the team is “to evaluate opportunities to enhance availability of multi-use trails at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and to make trail access recommendations to the District Superintendent.”

Members of the team include Jim Dascoulias, District Trails Coordinator for the park district, Paul Jorgensen, park Resource Ecologist, Michael Curtis and Don Mayo, hiker representatives, Keith Bennett and Daniel Greenstadt, mountain bike representatives and Suzie Kirkwood and Ron Matzenauer, equestrian representatives. The representatives were chosen based on their knowledge of the park and its trails, their knowledge of their respective user group and their ability to be open-minded and team players. Using the determination criteria of the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Mountain Bike Use Policy the team will look at all the trails in the park. The exceptions are trails that are in wilderness areas and cultural or natural preserves. Criteria used by the team will include safety, environmental/resource impacts (plants, cultural resources, soils, etc.) and user conflicts, requirements and preferences, as well as others.

District Superintendent David H. Van Cleve states, "It is our desire to have the team take an in-depth look at appropriate park trails and recommend those that it believes fit the criteria of a multi-use trail. The Department of Parks and Recreation is interested in enhancing recreation in state parks wherever feasible."

To keep the public up-to-date on the progress of the team, information will be posted on the park's web site at www.cuyamaca.statepark.org starting late March. Once the trails have been evaluated and recommendations made, it is planned that a public meeting will be held to receive input from interested citizens.